

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3-5, 7, 14, 21, and 22 as listed in the following listing of the claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for displaying a hierarchical structure, comprising:

a memory configured to hierarchically store a database for a plurality of classes each having a property, the property of one class in the plurality of classes being inherited to a child class belonging to the one class hierarchical structure; and

a display configured to output at least part of a first area of the one class and at least part of a second area of at least one the child class belonging to the one class, the one class and the at least one child class being defined in the plurality of classes, and the first area including the second area; and

an operation unit configured to select the first area or the second area on said display;

wherein, when said operation unit selects the second area, said display outputs a list of properties of the child class, the list including the property of the one class.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display outputs all of the first area including all of the second area.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display outputs class information related to the one class or the ~~at least one~~ child class in response to a selection from said operation unit.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said display outputs a list of properties ~~included in~~ of the one class ~~or the at least one~~ child class when said operation unit selects the first area.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said display outputs property information related to one property in ~~from~~ the list of properties when said operation unit selects the one property from the list of properties.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display outputs a mark in correspondence with each class of the first area and the second area, and wherein the mark represents that a corresponding class hierarchically includes a child class.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, ~~further comprising:~~ an wherein said operation unit indicates ~~configured to~~ indicate whether an area of the child class is displayed in an area of the corresponding class.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein a status of the mark of the corresponding class of which the area of the child class is displayed is different from a status of the mark of the corresponding class of which the area of the child class is not displayed.
9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein a status of the mark of the corresponding class of which the child class has an instance is different from a status of the mark of the corresponding class of which the child class does not have an instance.
10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said display outputs another mark in corresponding with the child class which has the instance.
11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said operation unit selects a class to display direct classes from the plurality of classes, and wherein said display outputs the direct classes to which the class belongs.
12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7,

wherein said operation unit sets a universal root class commonly including a first hierarchical structure derived from a first root class and a second hierarchical structure derived from a second root class.

13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7,
wherein said operation unit sets a retrieval start point to the one class of the first area on said display, and
wherein a retrieval object is limited to the child class having the instance.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said operation unit sets the retrieval start point to a class including at least two child classes each having an instance.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the child class inherits at least one property of each of the plurality of parent classes in the plurality of classes stored in said memory.

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein a display status of the child class inheriting at least one property of each of the plurality of parent classes is different from a display status of another child class not inheriting at least one property of each of the plurality of parent classes.

17. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said operation unit indicates a reference of an inheritance source class of one property of the child class inheriting at least one property of each of the plurality of parent classes, and wherein the inheritance source class is one of the plurality of parent classes.

18. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a color of a property in the list of properties of the child class as an inheritance destination class is the same as a color of the parent class having the property as the inheritance source class.

19. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said operation unit sets a number of hierarchical levels for a plurality of classes at an initialization mode to display the hierarchical structure of the plurality of classes.

20. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said operation unit sets an identifier of each class to be expansibly displayed in the plurality of classes at the initialization mode.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying a hierarchical structure, comprising:

hierarchically storing a database for a plurality of classes each having a property,
the property of one class in the plurality of classes being inherited to a child class
belonging to the one class hierarchical structure; and

displaying at least part of a first area of the one class and at least part of a second area of ~~at least one~~ the child class belonging to the one class, ~~the one class and~~ ~~the at least one child class being defined in the plurality of classes,~~ and the first area including the second area;

selecting the second area displayed; and
displaying a list of properties of the child class, the list including the property of
the one class.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium ~~program product~~, comprising: storing a computer readable program code ~~embodied in~~ ~~said product~~ for causing a computer to display a hierarchical structure, said computer readable program code comprising:

instructions for a first program code to hierarchically store a database for a plurality of classes each having a property, the property of one class in the plurality of classes being inherited to a child class belonging to the one class; hierarchical structure; and

instructions for a second program code to display at least part of a first area of the one class and at least part of a second area of at least one the child class belonging

to the one class, ~~the one class and the at least one child class being defined in the plurality of classes, and the first area including the second area;~~

instructions for a third program code to select the second area displayed; and
instructions for a fourth program code to display a list of properties of the child
class, the list including the property of the one class.